Regional Communication Systems Connections (RCSC)
June 21, 2011

Project Update

Overall

The RCSC project will enable direct one-to-one communications across Arizona regional public safety communication systems for select key mutual aid responders. Each Arizona regional public safety communications system will be connected through Conventional Channel Gateways (CCGW) and at least 4 channels will be set aside in each system for cross-system communications.

The Yuma Regional Communications System (YRCS) and the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) have been connected using CCGW gateways for about a year. DPS reports that the resulting functionality is very useful for members of task forces who need to travel in the territories of multiple regional communication systems.

Involved Parties

The RCSC project will involve the following partners:

- o Yuma Regional Communications System (YRCS)
- o Regional Wireless System (RWC)
- o Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- o Maricopa County
- o Topaz Regional Wireless Cooperative (TRWC)

Note: The PC-WIN system (Pima County) will be added as their system comes online.

Benefits

Currently there is no easy way for individual public safety personnel to communicate across Arizona's regional public safety communication systems. Any such communications must to be handled through dispatch centers rather than directly among first responders supporting other jurisdictions in mutual aid response.

A cross system gateway will enable existing regional systems to take advantage of low cost, proven technical solutions to enable key mutual aid responders to roam among all of Arizona's regional communication systems.

This will enable a rapid response team from Phoenix, for example, to talk directly to first responders in Yuma if they traveled to that region to support a significant incident response.

Next Steps

The main tasks required by each regional system for this project are as follows:

- Determine how to implement the cross system channels within their existing framework
- Identify the subset of users (likely to be Rapid Response Teams) to be given access to these cross system channels
- Provide the CCGW hardware interconnect to the DPS facility at Thompson Peak.
- Share/load the User IDs from other systems users in their system

The Public Safety Interoperable Communication Office (PSIC) has agreed to support the RCSC project by developing the appropriate Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to enable this project to proceed.

For additional information, please contact Michael Britt, PSIC Project Manager at mbritt@azgita.gov
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